THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The details of rupee coins distributed in the State of Gujarat during the past three years is as under:

(In million pieces)

Year (July-June)	Re.1	Rs.2	Rs.5	Total
1999-2000	42.00	9.70	23.08	74.78
2000-2001	48.70	39.00	29.42	117.12
2001-2002	196.50	114.60	88.64	399.74

Vacant posts in customs department

2015. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that important posts in the Customs Department are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details of the Group A posts that are lying vacant and the time since when they are lying vacant togetherwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Ministry of Finance to fill the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 746 Group 'A' posts of the Indian Customs and Central Excise Service were vacant on 30.11.2002 including the posts created due tQ restructuring of the Central Board of Excise and Customs which ' came into force on 01.11.2002. These vacancies have occurred on

different dates due to retirement, promotion to higher grades, creation of new posts as a result of cadre re-structuring, officers proceeding on deputation, study leave and litigation. Steps have been initiated to fill up these vacant posts by promotion of officers from lower grades.

Direct Tax Collection

2016. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Direct Tax Collection has shown a sharp decline;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and measures proposed to be taken to enhance tax collection;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is resentment among salaried class, both in PSUs and Government, for repeatedly being targeted when it comes to revenue generation, sparing the unorganised sector, including small and large commercial enterprises, which have scope for higher yield if properly tapped; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for the purpose so as to provide some relief to the already burdened salaried class?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. On the contrary, Direct Tax Collections upto 30th November, 2002 show an increase of 13.73% over the Collections during the corresponding period of last year.

(b) Question does not arise in view of reply to para (a) above.

(c) and (d)The Income Tax Act, 1961 does not discriminate between the Salaried Employees of PSUs and the Government Employees and other Salaried Employees of Private Sector. The provisions for the Taxation of Salaried Employees cannot be compared with the Taxation of small and large Business Enterprises, as the two Incomes are different in their nature and scope. The Salaried Employees are entitled to Standard Deduction, which has been increased over the years, especially in the case of the lower level Salaried Employees. In particular the Finance Act, 2001 raised the Standard Deductions for the Salaried Class earning